

DRUG LAB CHEMIST QUALIFYING AND DIRECT EXAMINATION

Lisa Yelle - Qualifying

1. State your name for the court. Spell your last name.
Lisa Yelle
2. What is your occupation?
Chemist in the Drug Unit at the Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory
3. How long have you been employed at the State Police Crime Laboratory?
Since June of 2008.
4. What is your educational background?
I have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forensic Science with a minor in Chemistry from the University of New Haven. I also have a Master of Science degree from the University of New Haven in Forensic Science: Criminalistics.
5. Would you describe the nature of your work and your duties in the Drug Lab?
I examine evidence submitted to the laboratory for the presence or absence of controlled substances. I prepare notes and reports reflecting my conclusions.
6. What in-house training have you received as a chemist in the Drug Laboratory?
I underwent an approximately 6 month training at the MSPCL where I was able to observe senior chemists and also experience hands-on supervised casework. I familiarized myself with laboratory procedure and learned to operate various instruments.
7. How many times have you had the occasion to test for the presence of controlled substances?
Approximately 1000 times.
8. Are you affiliated with any Professional Organizations related to your field?
Yes, I am a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and also the Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists.
9. How many times have you testified before?
This is my first opportunity to do so.

Lisa Yelle - Direct

10. Did you receive certain alleged controlled substances for testing in connection with the case of Commonwealth v. _____?
Yes.

11. (Show Drugs & Accompanying Cert to Chemist)

12. Do you recognize this document and the accompanying item?

I do.

13. What are these items I placed before you?

This is the evidence and report relating to laboratory case # _____.

14. How do you recognize these items?

The evidence bears my initials and date on the inner and outer plastic bag as well as the laboratory number _____. Also, the report bears my signature and the laboratory case #.

15. Did you previously handle these items?

Yes I did.

16. What did you do with these items?

I analyzed these items for the presence or absence of controlled substances.

17. How did you analyze these items?

For Item #1, I utilized a combination of screening and confirmatory tests.

If necessary, I could elaborate (but this tends to get too complicated for jurors):

I utilized a screening test called the Ultra-Violet Spectrophotometer (also known as the UV) to give me a general idea of what the substance could be. Based on those results, I ran an intermediate test called the Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometer and a confirmatory test utilizing the Gas Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometer (also known as the GC/MS).

For Item #2, I utilized a color test and a microscope.

18. After testing these items, what were you able to conclude?

The powder in Item 1 was found to contain Cocaine.

The vegetable matter in Item 2 was found to contain Marihuana

19. What is an adulterant?

An adulterant is something that is added to the heroin that has an affect on the body.

20. Did you find adulterants in this particular case?

Yes, I found Levamisole/Tetramisole as an adulterant in Item 1.

24. Did you have the opportunity to weigh the items you tested?

Yes I did.

25. How much did the item weigh?

Item 1 weighed 0.15 grams.

Item 2 weighed 1.81 grams.